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A study of the $Yb_xY_{1-x}InCu_4$ alloy system

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We report preliminary results of investigations of the $Yb_xY_{1-x}InCu_4$ alloy system (x=0, 0.1, 0.5, 0.825, 0.9, 1). We have detected the valence transition for x=1, 0.9 and 0.825 by thermopower measurements as well as by resistivity and magnetic susceptibility. Although the ionic state of the Yb ion is +3 in the high temperature phase for these concentrations as well as in the dilute alloys at all temperatures, the well-known features of Kondo behaviour are hardly noticeable. In the Yb-rich alloys, the dominant effect is the phase transition. The absent of Kondo characteristics is attributed to the characteristics of the matrix. Hence, we discuss the semimetallic behavior of YInCu₄. We show that its transport properties could be described by an activation process with the activation constant $\Delta \approx 90$ K.